

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments, examination of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-58 were pending, but have now been canceled. New claims 59-86 have been added. Accordingly, claims 59-86 are pending. Support for claims 59-86 may be found in original claims 2-5, 8, and 11-33. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that two other applications (U.S. Patent Applications No. 10/465,524 and No. 10/000,467) pending with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may be related to the present application. These two applications are discussed in more detail below.

Patent Application No. 10/465,524 is a continuation of Patent Application No. 08/898,564 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,613,508), which is a continuation-in-part of Patent Application No. 08/786,834 (now abandoned). No Office Actions have issued in the '524 application. In the '564 application, four Office Actions issued during its prosecution, copies of which are enclosed. In the '834 application, one Office Action issued before this application was expressly abandoned in favor of the '564 application. A copy of the Office Action in the '834 application is enclosed.

Patent Application No. 10/000,467 is a continuation of Patent Application No. 09/457,048 (now abandoned), which is a continuation of Patent Application No. 08/898,501 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,027,890), which is a continuation-in-part of Patent Application No. 08/787,521 (now abandoned). In the '467 application, one Office Action issued. In the '048 application, two Office Actions issued before this application became abandoned. In the '501 application, two Office Actions issued during its prosecution. No Office Action issued in the '521 application before this application was expressly abandoned. Copies of the above-noted Office Actions are enclosed.

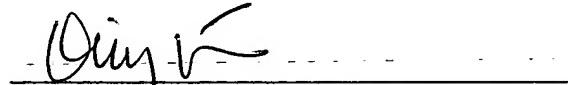
Application No. 10/622,182  
Second Preliminary Amendment dated December 16, 2003  
Response to Missing Parts of October 17, 2003



The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

  
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Qing Lin, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 53,937

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Enclosures:

Postcard

- Office Action dated November 3, 1997 (USAN 08/786,834)
- Office Action dated February 17, 1999 (USAN 08/898,564)
- Office Action dated November 9, 1999 (USAN 08/898,564)
- Office Action dated April 11, 2001 (USAN 08/898,564)
- Office Action dated November 27, 2002 (USAN 08/898,564)
- Office Action dated October 1, 1998 (USAN 08/898,501)
- Office Action dated May 27, 1999 (USAN 08/898,501)
- Office Action dated April 24, 2001 (USAN 09/457,048)
- Office Action dated March 29, 2000 (USAN 09/457,048)
- Office Action dated September 23, 2003 (USAN 10/000,467)

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300  
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092  
Phone: (206) 622-4900  
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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